

Message Text

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72

ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4885

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

AEC GERMANTOWN 640

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 1446

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: TECH, EEC, US

SUBJECT: THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DISCUSSES AN EC URANIUM
ENRICHMENT CAPABILITY

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 2509, JULY 7, 1972, (B) EC BRUSSELS 913

(C) 966; (D) 1073 (ALL NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY AT ITS CURRENT SESSION, THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
DISCUSSED A REPORT ON THE EC COMMISSION PROPOSAL TO THE COUNCIL
WHICH CALLS FOR A STUDY TO BE MADE REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF AN EC URANIUM ENRICHMENT CAPABILITY. DURING THE DISCUSSION
VARIOUS SPEAKERS REFERRED TO THE RECENTLY PROPOSED NEW CRITERIA
FOR USAEC ENRICHMENT SERVICES. END SUMMARY.

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2. ON MARCH 16 THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (EP) DISCUSSED THE REPORT PREPARED BY A MEMBER OF ITS COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, RESEARCH AND ATOMIC QUESTION ON THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL OF LAST JUNE TO THE EC COUNCIL THAT A STUDY BE MADE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY CAPABILITY FOR THE ENRICHMENT OF URANIUM (REFTEL A). THE DISCUSSION WAS INTERESTING AND ABOVE AVERAGE FOR THE PARLIAMENT'S DISCUSSION OF TECHNICAL MATTERS, WHICH ILLUSTRATES A HIGH DEGREE OF CURRENT INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT.

3. DURING THE DISCUSSION, THE REPORT'S RAPPORTEUR AND THREE OTHER SPEAKERS INTRODUCED REFERENCES TO THE U. S. ROLE IN THE FIELD OF URANIUM ENRICHMENT, WITH THE FOLLOWING THEMES APPEARING IN THEIR REMARKS: (A) THE RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE USG OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE CRITERIA FOR USAEC URANIUM ENRICHMENT SERVICES ILLUSTRATES THE NEED FOR AN URGENT DECISION REGARDING A POSSIBLE COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT FACILITY. (B) THE U. S. PROPOSED TERMS ARE " SEVERE" AND REFLECT THE U. S. MONOPOLY POSITION.

(C) TWO ENRICHMENT PROCESSES ARE CURRENTLY BEING STUDIED WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND THE RESULTS FROM THOSE STUDIES SHOULD BE UTILIZED BY THE COMMUNITY IN ARRIVING AT ITS DECISION. (D) THE COMMUNITY AND THE RESULTS FROM THOSE STUDIES SHOULD BE UTILIZED BY THE COMMUNITY IN ARRIVING AT ITS DECISION. (D) THE COMMUNITY MUST HAVE THE PLITICAL WILL TO MAKE THIS FAR-REACHING AND IMPORTANT DECISION. (SEE ALSO REFTELS B- D).

4. EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SIMONET SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION. HE SAID THE COMMUNITY MUST HAVE ITS OWN CAPABILITY BY 1980-85 SO THAT COMMUNITY ELECTRIC POWER PRODUCERS CAN DEVELOP THEIR PLANS ON THE BASIS OF AN ASSURED FUEL SUPPLY. THERE COULD BE A BALANCE BETWEEN FUEL ENRICHMENT BY THIS PROPOSED COMMUNITY INSTALLATION AND ENRICHED FUEL OBTAINED FROM THE U. S. THE TWO PROCESSES PRESENTLY UNDER STUDY ARE NOT INCOMPATIBLE NOR COMPETITIVE AND THIS WILL AID THE COMMUNITY IN REACHING ITS DECISION. WITH REFERENCE TO THE REMARKS CONCERNING THE U. S., SIMONET SAID THE WORLD IS NOT " PHILANTHROPIC NOR IS IT GOVERNED BY THE GOSPELS." NATIONS TEND TO NEGOTIATE FROM STRENGTH AND IN THIS SITUATION THE U. S. HAS THE STRONGER POSITION. THIS IMBALANCE HE SAID, SHOULD HELP THE COMMUNITY REACH A COMMON POSITION.

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5. THE EP COMMITTEE REPORT, WHICH SUPPORTS THE COMMISSION' S PROPOSAL TO THE COUNCIL, WAS THEN ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE PARLIAMENT. THE FULL TEXT OF THE REPORT AND THE RECORD OF THE DISCUSSION WILL BE FORWARDED TO EUR/ RPE AND THE AEC.
GREENWALD

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TAGS: TECH, US, EEC
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